

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-10

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
SUBJ: NETHERLANDS--AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND WEATHER
REPORT NO. 2

REF: TOFAS-515, JULY 1

1. NO PRECIPITATION SINCE JULY 1, TEMPERATURES HAVE REMAINED
AROUND THE NINETIES.

2. SITUATION IS MOST SEVERE FOR DAIRY FARMERS. SPECIALLY
THOSE IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN PARTS OF COUNTRY WHO FARM ON
THE LIGHTER SOILS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THEY WILL ONLY HARVEST
10 PERCENT OF THEIR NORMAL HAY CROP AND WILL ENTER THE WINTER
WITH ONLY 60 PERCENT OF THEIR NORMAL CORN SILAGE. IN THESE
SANDY AREAS CORN ACCOUNTS FOR HALF OF TOTAL ROUGHAGE POSITION.
IN MOST OTHER AREAS, ROUGHAGE STOCKS AT BEGINNING OF WINTER
PERIOD ARE ESTIMATED TO BE 2/3 NORMAL, BUT THIS ASSUMES
FAVORABLE WEATHER FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON. EVEN IF IT STARTS
RAINING TODAY FARMERS STILL HAVE TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR OWN
FORAGE CROP OR CULL ANIMALS. KEY FACTOR IN DECIDING WILL
BE THE INCREASE OF (2) COST FOR FORAGE AND (B) COMPOUNDED
FEED RELATIVE TO (C) DECREASING REVENUES FROM LOWER MILK
PRODUCTION AND (D) LOWER SLAUGHTER CATTLE PRICES. LAST
YEAR NETHERLANDS CONSUMED 3.3 MILLION MT OF COMPOUND FEED.
THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF DROUGHT AN EXTRA CONSUMPTION OF 500,000
MT IS FORECAST.

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3. GRASS SEEDS: SITUATION BAD. GRASS YIELDS ARE FAR BELOW NORMAL. ACTUAL NUMBERS NOT YET AVAILABLE.

4. GRAINS: THE HEAT WAVE HAS ADVANCED RIPENING OF WINTER BARLEY. PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE YIELDS ARE MODERATELY LOWER. PROLONGED AND EXCESSIVE DRY HEAT HAS ALSO DAMAGED WHEAT. PRODUCTBOARD ESTIMATES WHEAT YIELDS WILL BE 20-40 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL. WE ESTIMATE WHEAT HARVEST AT 650-675,000 TONS COMPARED TO VERY BAD CROP OF 500,000 MT LAST YEAR.

5. SUGARBEETS; ON LIGHTER SOILS YIELDS WILL BE BELOW NORMAL. IN CLAY AREAS WHERE MORE THAN 2/3 OF BEETS ARE GROWN, BEETS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. OVERALL CROP WILL BE AVERAGE. SUGAR PRODUCTION OF 875,000 MT IS LATEST FORECAST FROM MINAG.

6. POTATOES/ONIONS: NOT MUCH CHANGE FROM REF TOFAS. ON LIGHT SOILS CROP CONDITION IN LESS THAN AVERAGE; IN OTHER AREAS CROP IS REPORTEDLY NORMAL.

7. VEGETABLES; GROWN IN ARABLE FARMS FOR PROCESSING INDUSTRY: PEAS, SPINACH AND GREEN BEANS WILL SUFFER FROM DROUGHT. CANNERS AND FREEZERS WILL HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING ENOUGH SUPPLIES. DEMAND FOR CANNED AND FROZEN VEGETABLES FROM US MIGHT INCREASE IN COMING MONTHS.
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